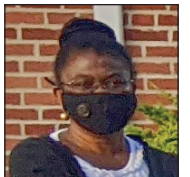




Cassels Award Winner, p.6



GHI Meeting, Election, p.7

Co-op FY20 AGM's Good News Tempered by Pandemic Realities

by Cathie Meetre

At the Annual General Meeting of Greenbelt Consumer Co-operative on November 7, approximately 60 members heard the good news that Co-op, for the first time in three years, had posted a profit. Manager Dan Gillotte was also happy to state that the store had not, through the day of the meeting, had a positive Covid-19 test for an employee – though he worried that he was tempting providence. Alas, so it proved. In a letter to members emailed Tuesday, November 10, Gillotte announced that one employee had tested positive. The employee, whose last shift was November 4, had not had close contact with the public (The Centers for Disease Control defines ‘close contact’ as less than six feet away for a duration of 15 minutes or more). Gillotte, in his letter, said that Co-op was fully supporting the affected individual and that safety continued to be their highest priority.

In the meeting, Gillotte expressed his gratitude to Co-op's staff, noting that they spend their working day in an environment



PHOTO BY JILL STEVENSON

Co-op's Mercato curbside delivery team speed groceries to shoppers pulled up at the loading ramp. From left, Jessica Silver, Michael Snyder, Jaimee Lee Castro and Jeremy Ehrenreich.

most are at pains to avoid and lauded their continued vigilance in protecting customers and each other. He was grateful for their welcome to him and his family

earlier in the year and for their wholehearted collaboration during these difficult months. Gillotte

See CO-OP, page 6

Greenbelt Road Raises Many Issues to Resolve with SHA

by Matthew Arbach

On November 4, the Greenbelt City Council shared concerns about Greenbelt Road (Route 193), and its connections with adjoining roadways in Greenbelt, with representatives of the State Highway Administration (SHA) in a worksession. Some of these concerns are long-standing, while others are derived from proposed redevelopment along this corridor. The SHA representatives were Strategic Communications and Public Relations Lead Shannon Coyne, Civil Engineer Peter

Campanides and Regional Planner David Rodgers. Members of the Berwyn Heights council were present as well.

A discussion on the proposed Royal Farms development along 193 and Capitol Drive began the meeting, focusing on the issue of tree removal on the site. Said Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby, in a separate interview, “Royal Farms has indicated that they will be applying to SHA to do clearing in the SHA right-of-way to

accommodate storm water management facilities.” Council was opposed to this measure, with Councilmember Rodney Roberts suggesting removal was unnecessary if part of the site were to remain undeveloped. Council urged SHA to be kept in the ongoing decision process, with Coyne saying that SHA would look into the matter on behalf of council.

Coyne said that the plan to have access to the site via 193 had been changed to be via Capitol Drive, thus negating the need for a SHA-approved

See SHA, page 5

What Goes On

Monday, November 16 8 p.m. City Council Worksession: Beltway Plaza Phase 1 Detailed Site Plan
Wednesday, November 18 8 p.m. City Council Worksession: City Manager Update
All council meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.

Council to Vote on Freezing Evictions, Late Fees & Rents

by Diane Oberg

At its November 23 regular meeting the Greenbelt City Council is expected to vote on three ordinances that would prohibit evictions, late fees and rent increases and impose substantial penalties for non-compliance. At the November 9 council meeting, Mayor Colin Byrd introduced for first reading an ordinance that would prohibit landlords from filing for evictions for failure to pay rent and to impose a fine of \$500 per day for each separate

violation on landlords who violate the ordinance.

Byrd also announced his intent to introduce two related ordinances at the November 23 meeting, one prohibiting landlords from assessing late fees and one prohibiting rent increases. He plans to move to suspend the rules to permit those ordinances to be approved in a single meeting. The rent-freeze ordinance also

See EVICTIONS, page 8



PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA

Fall foliage as seen from the Spellman overpass, overlooking the Baltimore-Washington Parkway

First-time Election Volunteers Reflect on Their Experiences

by Julia Arbutus

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

When Mary Wade got an email from Mayor Colin Byrd saying there was a need for election judges on Tuesday, November 3, she was quick to sign up.

The retired Greenbelt resident of 30 years thought volunteering would be fun, and so, at 5:30 a.m. on Election Day, she was at Eleanor Roosevelt High School getting ready for the more than 12-hour day.

“It was a long day,” Wade said. “But we did it. It was like running a marathon.”

Maryland saw a shortage of election volunteers this year, as safety concerns due to the coronavirus pandemic deterred some from helping in person. Some, though, like Wade, decided to make this year their first year volunteering.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School had a steady stream of voters throughout the day,

See ELECTION, page 11

Grant Given to Underwrite 250 Thanksgiving Dinners

by Gary Childs

The holiday season is a time for sharing with others, especially those who may need a little boost. This year, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, many more families are experiencing economic hardship. Reduced business revenue and closures have put many people out of work or reduced their income.

MCF Community Church (MCF) in Greenbelt was recently given a generous grant to help alleviate food needs during the

upcoming holiday season. Their plan is to put together boxes with all the fixings needed to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner. The church hopes to provide boxes for 250 families. The food being provided will include typical Thanksgiving fare: turkey breast or ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, vegetable, rolls and pumpkin pie with whipped cream. The menu may change slightly depending

See GRANT, page 4



PHOTO BY KEVIN CARPENTER-DRISCOLL

Volunteers help install native plants in a pollinator garden. See story, page 12.

Letters to the Editor

More Photo Info

This note is to pass along information as to the identities of people in the recent photo of Nixon family members at the 1968 Labor Day Festival. (November 5, 2020, issue, page 4, and shown again below.)

Julie and David are flanked on the left by Leo Gerton, longtime Greenbelter and operator of High's dairy store for many years. On the right is Mayor Edgar Smith.

The photo was taken by Seymour Kaplan. It was included in Greenbelt: History of a New Town, edited by Mary Lou Williamson.

As important as this presidential family visit was, here we note the visit of an actual president.

The date was November 13, 1936. Fresh off the victory of his second term, President Franklin Roosevelt took a ride up Edmonston Road to see the building of Greenbelt. Traveling in an open top Packard, Roosevelt and his team spent two hours here, making six stops and saying a few positive words.

Mark Hanyok



Masks at the Lake

I recently went for a walk around Greenbelt Lake. While delighted to see signs urging the wearing of masks, I was disappointed to see that there were only about a half-dozen sign stations around the lake. Given the possibility of exposure to harmful coronaviruses floating in the air, it seems to me we need a lot more to get the message across. I also suggest audio signage for the visually impaired. One cannot be too careful, particularly with talk of a second wave. Finally, remember Rhoda's Rule: wearing a mask each day may help to keep the doctor away.

Rhoda Bloom

Whirligig Thanks

I'm so glad to finally know whom to thank for enlivening my Greenbelt Lake strolls throughout the seasons. For years, I have enjoyed the ever-changing whirligigs and artistic objects that dot a certain backyard and spring to spooky life in October. Visiting grandkids always want to walk the Lake Path to see what new delight might be tucked away somewhere, and we've speculated a lot about who would go to so much trouble to delight passersby.

Now I'm very happy to be able to say "Thank you, Marc Siegel family," for sharing your whimsy and joy with all of us strangers.

Linda R. Tokarz

Correction

In the issue of November 5, in the page 1 story congratulating the Greenbelt Mask Makers on winning the Community Partner of the Year award, we referred to the award's sponsoring organization incorrectly. The Arc is the largest national community-based organization advocating for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and serving them and their families.

GNR Thanksgiving Ads/Copy Deadline

Thanksgiving holiday schedules for our printer mean the News Review must submit the camera-ready copy to them a day early.

As a result, all published deadlines for copy, photos and ads are ONE DAY earlier than they usually are. The times remain the same.

Out of consideration for our staff, it is preferable that materials come in even earlier than that whenever possible. All efforts will be much appreciated.

The newspaper may be delivered to doorsteps either Thursday or Friday, depending on carrier schedules and printer delivery times.



Service or Garden Side?



I'll be fine, five seconds rule.
B.Glee



Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT MUSEUM

David Eisenhower and Julie Nixon attend the 1968 Greenbelt Labor Day Festival parade as grand marshals.

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para ver artículos en español.



See our website,
greenbeltnewsreview.com,
for articles in Spanish.

The Bus

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Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit), Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



PHOTO BY NEIL WILLIAMSON

J. Davis enjoys a beautiful fall afternoon at Cabin 12, New Germany State Park, Grantsville, Md.

Community Events

NASA’s Exoplanet Survey Explained

The November meeting of the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will be held on Thursday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m. over Zoom. The Zoom link will be made available on greenbeltastro.org by the day of the meeting. The speaker will be Scott Fleming, who says, “In this presentation I will describe the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission, NASA’s current exoplanet survey space telescope. After describing the spacecraft itself and how it operates, I will overview some of the exciting discoveries it has made in its first two years of operation, both exoplanet and otherwise. Finally, I will look forward to the future as TESS has begun its first official two-year mission extension starting this past September.”

At the Library

Curbside service hours are now Tuesday to Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. at branch libraries. By appointment only, place requests for up to 50 items in advance.

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month 2020 this November by visiting the Library’s Native American and Indigenous Peoples Heritage Hub to learn about their culture, traditions, contributions and history. Prince George’s County is situated on the traditional lands of the Mattapanient, Patuxent, Piscataway, Moyaone and Pamunkey tribes.

Featured virtual events for Native American and Indigenous Peoples Heritage Month are listed below and streamed at pgcmli.info/events. Thursday, November 12 at 7 p.m.: Native American and Indigenous Peoples Heritage Month Reader’s Advisory (teens and adults); Friday, November 20 at 3 p.m.: Crafternoon: Native American Dreamcatchers (all ages). The county library system offers free access to ABC-CLIO’s The American Indian Experience, an online encyclopedia with information on Native American cultures and history including primary sources.

Read Woke Challenge

The Library is participating in the Read Woke Challenge, a national initiative to encourage reading, personal growth and racial and social equity. Readers of all ages are encouraged to read or listen to at least five books between now and December 15 that explore diversity, inclusion, equity, anti-racism and the many perspectives of the human experience. Readers can register on Beanstack to participate. All who log five titles through December 15 will be entered to win a \$50 Amazon gift card raffle.

MindfulnessWorkshop

Mindfulness For the Holidays: A Virtual Workshop will be held on Saturday, November 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mindfulness teacher Heidi Schuttenberg will share practices for taking care of yourself and others during the holiday season.

The workshop is offered by donation. For more information and to register, visit sites.google.com/view/mindful-holidays/home or email heidi.schuttenberg@gmail.com.

Sustainable Holidays

Join the Green Teams on Sunday, November 22, at 7 p.m. to discuss Safe, Simple and Sustainable Holidays and Celebrations. Because of our uncertain and isolated times, many of us won’t be together with friends and family. We’ll talk about simplifying our holidays and how we can help protect ourselves and care for each other. Leaders, including the Community Church’s interim pastor, Reverend Curtiss DeMars-Johnson, will begin the discussion.

This is the fourth environmental Zoom presentation sponsored by the Green Teams of Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ and the City of Greenbelt.

RSVP to Jane Young at gccjane@aol.com for Zoom information. To avoid problems, tell us your username as it will appear in Zoom, or your phone number if you will be calling in.

Wanting to Connect Across Greenbelt

Connecting Across Greenbelt is a group of residents who gather virtually to build relationships across neighborhoods and to understand current challenges for all Greenbelters. To research ways to cope in these difficult times, the group is building a Caring and Connecting Toolkit in association with leading mental health and community health leaders. The group invites all members of the community and their families to access clinically proven self-compassion techniques at self-compassion.org/exercise-1-treat-friend/.

To find out about the group’s monthly meetings (November’s topic: Mental Health), Connecting Across Greenbelt: Community Conversations, email communityconnections.gb@gmail.com.

Rotarian Food Drive

Young members of the Greenbelt Rotary will be at Beltway Plaza, Saturday, November 14 from noon to 6 p.m. to collect non-perishable food items to be delivered to needy Greenbelt residents on Tuesday, November 24 in time for Thanksgiving. These donations will supplement earlier collections by the group at Schromfest.

A table will be available in the center of the mall to receive donations and a box will also be placed outside Giant Food.

Virtual Community Tea Meeting Nov. 12

The Greenbelt Virtual Community Tea now meets on the second Thursday of each month. The next tea will be on Thursday, November 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and is open to all. Feel free to stop by for a moment or stay a while. These teas are strictly social. Sometimes the discussion is on serious topics (Covid, Black Lives Matter), other times on lighter topics (favorite Netflix, where to get take-out food). To access the Zoom link, visit facebook.com/pg/greenbelttimebank/events/. Email questions to greenbelt.timebank@gmail.com.

Map Amendment Hearing Postponed

Prince George’s County Council Chair Todd Turner announced that the District Council and Prince George’s County Planning Board Joint Public Hearing on the proposed Countywide Map Amendment (CMA), scheduled for November 19, has been postponed.

This decision was reached given the recent resurgence in Covid-19 cases, in alignment with the advice of public health officials and county Phase II Covid-19 public health emergency operations, and due to recent disclosures required under state law which prevent a quorum of council members required to hold the Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Board to consider the proposed CMA.

To ensure full consideration and opportunity for public comment, as well as an orderly implementation of the new zoning ordinance, additional notification will be provided for the proposed CMA hearing, once the county’s emergency status indicates the meeting can be held safely and the District Council and Planning Board determine it is appropriate to proceed in accordance with state law.

GCPS Rally to Support Our First Responders

The public is invited to attend a rally in support of Greenbelt’s first responders and their work in maintaining public safety. This rally is sponsored by Greenbelt Citizens for Public Safety (GCPS) and will take place in front of the Municipal Building on Saturday, November 14 from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. For further information email RobertLSnyder08@comcast.net.

Greenbelt Arts Center Directors Workshop

Have you ever wanted to direct a play but don’t know how to start? On Thursday, November 19 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm, members of the Greenbelt Arts Center play-reading committee will provide a Zoom workshop for directors who would like guidance concerning submitting play proposals. They will advise about what the committee looks for and answer questions about the process and any other relevant concerns. Details about how to access the Zoom workshop will be posted online at greenbeltartscenter.org.

Candlelight Vigil

A weekly candlelight vigil is held on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month from 7 to 8 p.m. at the intersection of Breezewood Drive and Cherrywood Lane, near the Shell station. The purpose of these vigils is to provide community members an opportunity to gather with candles and signs and to engage in dialogue to better understand one another and to understand issues of policing as well as sources of racism. All are welcome to join and it is not necessary for participants to bring a candle.

My Perspective

Widening Highways, Maglev Means Upping Noise Exposure

by David Shapiro

Here’s some uncomfortable news about what it means to bring fast traffic closer to our homes by widening highways: closer means louder. The maglev, with no wheel clatter, will still have substantial noise, according to a detailed analysis downloadable from the group opposing it [1].

There are consequences to increased noise exposure. We proved half a century ago that long-term exposure to high levels of noise impairs the function of laboratory animals. We’ve known for almost this long that children develop learning problems in too loud an environment.

Newly released research [2], partly funded by the National Institute on Aging, followed more than 5,000 older adults in four neighborhoods with different noise levels, giving them psychological tests every three years, for up to 12 years. Accounting for levels of education, social status, pollution and other elements, living in a noisier neighborhood was tied to deficits. Roughly, overall thinking was as weak as that of seniors half a year older and mental processing was only as swift as people two years older.

This study didn’t prove that long-term noise exposure actually created mild cognitive impairment or hastened Alzheimer’s Disease. However, weaker thinking did correlate with noisier neighborhoods. They were not the first to examine this question. Other sizable studies with similar results – extending to other aspects of health – were conducted in Europe. This new research did look at issues that are very much on our minds as we look at our country’s inequities. For a “sensitive subpopulation,” people with less money and lower social status, living in neighborhoods that were less safe, the association between seniors’ impairment and increased noise exposure was even stronger.

How much more noise was the exposure? Ten decibels, adjusted for human response, 10

dBA. About the difference between conversation and a phone’s dial tone.

Reducing traffic noise could help, perhaps by erecting sound barriers. Although they’re not highly effective, according to a review citing serious acoustical experts [3].

Losing close-in urban green-space, even for a good purpose, not only has a psychic cost but can reduce home values [4]. Now it looks like the noise from added traffic lanes, or a maglev for portions of our green belt could hurt us yet another way.

“Ambient noise and air pollution collectively outrank all other environmental risk factors in importance, contributing to over 75 percent of the disease and disability burden associated with known environmental risk factors.” [Munzel et. al., 2017, referenced in [2]]

[1] Mapping the noise and vibration nuisance of the proposed Baltimore-Washington superconducting maglev train, stopthistrain.org/downloads-and-resources.

[2] Most of the claims can be traced to this article or its list of references: onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/alz.12191, Long term community noise exposure in relation to dementia, cognition, and cognitive decline in older adults, Jennifer Weuve et. al., Alzheimer’s and Dementia, October 2020.

[3] undark.org/2017/12/27/highway-noise-barrier-science/.

[4] web.uri.edu/coopext/valuing-siting-options-for-commercial-scale-solar-energy-in-rhode-island/.

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

GATe GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION Friday November 13 - Thursday November 19		
PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE		CONNECT WITH GATe ON  
7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	GATe Classic Film ★ Drama • 1939	• The Little Princess • Shirley Temple • Directed by Walter Lang
11 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
SAT/SUN	Member Spotlight	• GATe Community Producers
12 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Scotchtown Hills v Northview • Ridgecrest v PE Williams
2 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
3 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Drama • 1939	• The Little Princess • Shirley Temple • Directed by Walter Lang
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Scotchtown Hills v Northview • Ridgecrest v PE Williams
SAT/SUN	Member Spotlight	• GATe Community Producers
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8 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Drama • 1939	• The Little Princess • Shirley Temple • Directed by Walter Lang
10 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
11 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
12 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77 STREAMING LIVE at www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream		

Obituaries

Phyllis Cipriano

Phyllis Jean Boland Cipriano, age 73, died on March 17, 2020, at her home in Sarasota, Fla.

A native of Prince George’s County, she was born December 10, 1946, in Greenbelt to Vincenza “Virginia” Carmela Cipriano and James Edward Boland. According to family lore, Phyllis was delivered on the steps of her grandparents’ home, Cipriano Farm. She was educated at St. Hugh’s Catholic School, Bladensburg High School and the University of Maryland.

The need for a change of scenery brought Phyllis to the Pacific Northwest where she lived in Portland, Ore., and Vancouver, Wash. In her early career, she worked in aircraft sales. She also spent time as a legal secretary for tennis and basketball professionals, among them the legendary

Arthur Ashe.

Early in 2020, Phyllis retired in Sarasota, Fla.

The family plans to celebrate her life in 2021 when loved ones can safely gather and pay their respects.

Phyllis’ grandfather Pop Cipriano was made an honorary citizen of Greenbelt in the 70’s though he lived at his farm on Cipriano Road. He was an icon of the early Labor Day Parades with his donkey cart full of fresh flowers. Small of stature, he had been a strongman in vaudeville days and enjoyed showing off his muscles. The Outstanding Citizen Award given each year at the beginning of the Labor Day Festival was begun as a memorial to Cipriano.

Connecting Across Greenbelt: Staying Healthy in Tough Times

by Lois Rosado and Tom Adams

This week has tested the patience of every person in the U.S., and Greenbelters are just as anxious as the rest of the country. Not only because we have had to wait for the results of the presidential election, but because many of us feel sad or angry that our nation is so divided. Many of us feel scared about what might happen as a result of the election. Others worry that getting through the winter with more threats of coronavirus might be too much. We may feel angry about all the restrictions and limitations on our lives, and afraid we will lose our jobs. It is a crazy and confusing time.

Neighbors, you are not alone. Members of Connecting Across Greenbelt have spoken with neighbors, friends and family and most of us are feeling more off-balance than usual. One way to break down our isolation and fear is to reach out and connect with our neighbors, to share our concerns with them, to share and brainstorm the methods and techniques we use to cope with life as we move forward.

On Tuesday, November 17 at 7 p.m. join Connecting Across Greenbelt for a Mental Health Conversation aimed at learning from one another how we each adapt to deal with daily challenges in 2020. Greenbelt resident, licensed social worker and therapist Susan Taylor will facilitate the conversations. Derrick Faison, Greenbelt fitness instructor, will share additional techniques and Darren Stephenson from CARES will discuss how to access assistance when needed. There will be an opportunity to share your experiences and to learn from others about tools that are helping Greenbelt residents cope, thrive

and connect to stay healthy. We will build a Connecting and Caring Toolkit that all participants can tap into anytime they want more resources and/or assistance stabilizing their lives.

To learn more about the November 17 Greenbelt Mental Health Conversation including the Zoom link to join the 7 p.m. conversation, go to bit.ly/CAGtoolkit or email the Connecting Across Greenbelt neighbors at communityconnections.gb@gmail.com.



Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Phyllis Jean Boland Cipriano, a former Greenbelt. She died on March 17 of this year and the family hopes to celebrate her life in 2021 when loved ones can safely gather.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.



PHOTO BY GARY CHILDS

A foggy day in Buddy Attick Park

GRANT continued from page 1

on availability of particular food items.

Jeff Warner, the minister at MCF, says that the grant is use-it-or-lose-it and must be spent by the end of 2020. Also, according to Warner, the funds given in the grant can only be used for food. MCF is looking for families who need this sort of help. They need to know by November 15 how many people they will be serving so they can finalize their plans in time for Thanksgiving.


MCF is partnering with TLC (Truth, Love & Character), which is a Christian student club at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, to distribute the food.

Warner invites Greenbelt residents who would be helped by receiving a free Thanksgiving dinner to contact MCF by Sun-

day, November 15, at MCFcc.org/thanks. Church officials stress that this contact is a request for a meal but does not necessarily guarantee that a request for food will be fulfilled, since they do not yet know how many people will place requests. Those families receiving a meal will be notified on or near November 16. In order for MCF and TLC to be able to make this happen, enough families need to respond.

The church invites Greenbelt residents to share this information with people they know who may benefit from this opportunity. Distribution is scheduled for Saturday, November 21 with more details to follow.

Those seeking more detailed information may contact Pastor Jeff Warner at info@MCFcc.org.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

During the pandemic, we gather **VIRTUALLY** for Liturgy of the Word Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link:
FDeBernardo@aol.com

The Bible Says...

The Ten Commandments
#6-You Shall Not Murder
Exodus 20:13



Sunday Worship Services
10a-11a ONLINE
MCFcc.org/online

Greenbelt Community Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
a just world for all

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1 Hillside Road 301-474-6171 Rev. Curt DeMars-Johnson

Join Us on Facebook Live
Sunday at 10:15

Good and Faithful
Servant
Matthew 25:14-30

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org




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40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

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301-474-9410


Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now.
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.
10 a.m. Sunday mornings



“All men have been called into being for the betterment of the world. It behoveth every soul to arise and serve his brethren for the sake of God.”

— Bahá’u’lláh

 **Greenbelt Bahá’í Community**
www.greenbeltbahais.org

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

 Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community 

November 15 10 a.m.
Take a Flying Leap!

Guest Speaker Mary Rooker, with Worship Associate Susannah Schiller

Baby steps work in some situations but land in disaster when you're crossing a chasm.
How can we embrace deep structural change and take meaningful action?

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
All services and activities are currently virtual
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism



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Gospel Centered

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Sunday School at 9:45am
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301-474-4212
[@GreenbeltBaptist](https://www.instagram.com/GreenbeltBaptist)

SHA continued from page 1

permit. Hruby stated that currently the area is prone to accidents, with 12 occurring in the last five years. Introducing a Royal Farms station would potentially exacerbate this risk.

Council expressed frustration over another long-standing problem with the intersection of Lakecrest Drive and 193; characterized by several on the council as a “nightmare” due to a combination of high traffic and dangerous turns. Councilmember Judith Davis described the area as “a weird confluence of traffic patterns,” congested by proximity to the Belle Point offices and the American Legion, among other factors. Council was clear in their request for a complete redesign of the intersection, with problems running along a half-mile stretch from Southway to Capitol Cadillac, said Councilmember Edward Putens. Campanides reported that a study mounted by SHA revealed a general compliance with crossing signals by cars and pedestrians. Even so, he agreed to assess the area again to see what could be done, but added that a geometric redesign was unlikely.

Resident Michael Hartman asked if the southbound Baltimore/Washington Parkway ramp onto 193 could be widened to alleviate congestion. Campanides replied that all ramps on this roadway are controlled by the National Park Service, with Davis stating that council had asked several times for this improvement.

Rodgers informed council that currently SHA has no projects planned for the long-discussed proposal to redevelop 193 into a multimodal corridor, safe for pedestrians and bikes. He said that it is not included in the state’s Consolidated Transportation Plan. Councilmember Emmett Jordan noted that the proposal is on the county’s transportation priority list. He said that the proposal needs to move ahead immediately, as only a proactive effort will stave off future crises, with extensive development on the horizon.

Rodgers urged Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights and College Park to create a master plan that would act as a springboard to future efforts. He also recommended that the three cities look first at achieving smaller efforts, using available funds, citing the lack of state finances at the moment. Council and Berwyn Heights Councilmember Ethan Sweep asked SHA to attend upcoming meetings on this in order to better steer the effort in an effective manner, stressing the necessity of active SHA involvement. Rodgers agreed to provide representatives.

Council made a request for a sign along 193 that would direct passers-by to Old Greenbelt and the shopping at Roosevelt Center.

Campanides told council that a “generic,” historic sign might be possible, citing the restrictions involved in signage. Davis said that this was better than nothing.

Council asked for a crosswalk at the Southway/193 intersection to make crossing over to Greenway Center safer. Campanides explained that a traffic count would need to be done to see if it is warranted.

Operational changes have been

made to sections of 193 intersecting with Kenilworth Avenue, including: no turn on red at southbound Kenilworth into westbound 193; and, a more conspicuous signal from eastbound 193 to north Kenilworth, with the stop line moved slightly back. Red light cameras, which were removed due to construction, might be reinstalled if these changes prove not effective.

Campanides expressed the

challenges of transforming 193 into a multimodal roadway, saying that “it’s not as easy as it looks.” He said the corridor is classified as a suburban town center, noting that it is “vehicular centric” and “business heavy.” Noting that SHA is committed to the “zero vision” being implemented throughout the state to reduce accidents, he said that improved walkability through enhanced crosswalk design could be

achieved more easily than better bikeability. He felt adding more lanes is probably not the solution, with the emphasis more on repurposing the area.

Jordan summed up the situation as “a long expensive process,” stressing the need for action, and emphasizing that “developments are coming fast,” such as the 2,500 residential units planned for the Beltway Plaza redevelopment.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER 16-20

Monday, November 16 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Introduction of the Beltway Plaza Phase 1 Detailed Site Plan** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 & 996 and streaming on www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipaltv

Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00pm **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**

Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00pm **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** On the Agenda: Resident Wellness Check Program, Update from the Police Department on crime, Update on City Drug Drop Box & Drug Take Back Day from the PD, and Continued Discussion of Police Policy & Training.

Wednesday, November 18 at 7:30pm **SPECIAL MEETING re: Environmental Engineering Legal Firm - SCMaglev 11/18**

Wednesday, November 18 at 8:00pm **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: City Manager’s Update** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 & 996 and streaming on www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipaltv

Thursday, November 19 at 5:30pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS.**

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltdmd.gov.



SEEKING LIFEGUARDS AND POOL MANAGERS!

The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center is now hiring lifeguards! Apply now at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/jobs



GOBBLE WOBBLE

VIRTUAL FAMILY FUN RUN & WALK

Pre-registration is required
Registration available through December 1st

**Fee: \$15/individual
\$50/Family 4-pack**

Visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation or call 301-397-2200 to register

You decide when to run, walk, or wobble! Make sure to share your photos with us #GreenbeltGobbleWobble2020 and #GreenbeltRecreation or by emailing aphelan@greenbeltdmd.gov

All registrants will receive a Gobble Wobble shirt and medal. Pickup details will be shared with registrants once available



FREE Parenting Classes

November 18 & December 2 from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM, VIRTUAL
Be the Best Parent You Can Be!

Email: cares@greenbeltdmd.gov to register

- Parenting During Stressful Times
- Setting Rules that Work
- Effective Discipline
- Managing your Child’s Emotions



DRIVE-UP DOG PARK PERMIT REGISTRATION

PRESENTED BY GREENBELT ANIMAL CONTROL AND THE GREENBELT POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Saturday, November 14th
3:00pm-6:00pm
Greenbelt Dog Park
Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt MD**

What you will need to bring:
Proof of residency, proof of vaccines (rabies and distemper),
Proof of county license(must bring yellow/white receipt)
Fee of \$10 for residents or \$30 for non-residents. Cash or checks ONLY

No appointments needed to apply for a Dog Park Permit during this event!

Green Ridge House Opens Waiting List

Green Ridge House, the City of Greenbelt’s HUD Section 8-202 apartment building, will open its waiting list from **November 9 thru 13, 2020 and November 16 thru 20, 2020.**

Green Ridge House is an independent living apartment building located at 22 Ridge Road. All applicants must apply in person and be 62 years of age or older. All applicants must have with them a valid State ID or Driver’s License and their Social Security card. We cannot accept an application without these two items. All applicants will have a credit and criminal background check performed to determine eligibility. Applicants should be prepared to move within 30 days once they receive a call that a unit is available. Rent is based upon 30 percent of one’s income within a maximum gross income of \$44,100 for individuals and \$50,400 for couples. All apartments are one-bedroom units. Only applicants who would consider moving within the next 6 months to one year should apply. Green Ridge House is a Non-Smoking Building.

For information on how to apply, please see www.greenbeltdmd.gov/greenridgehouse

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Arts Advisory Board
- Employee Relations Board
- Board of Elections
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

For more information call 301- 474-8000



PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Thursday, November 19
1:00-3:00pm
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road
Ground Floor East

Located near the Roundabout and Flagpole.

FOR CITY INFORMATION, ACTIVITIES, SERVICES, MEETINGS AND MORE VISIT WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV!

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Visually impaired may listen for free
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear
301-681-6636

No special equipment needed



CO-OP continued from page 1

took on the role of manager the same day masks became compulsory in Maryland.

Thanks to Bob Davis

President Bill Jones called the meeting to order, thanking, as did others, Bob Davis, who retired as manager in April after 37 years of service. Jones welcomed Gillotte as the new manager and thanked Barbara Ford (a past board president), Donna Peterson and Linda Ivy, all of whom are leaving the board after many years of contributions. The meeting unanimously elected three new members: Gettie Audain, Johanna Goderre Jones and Steve Bernheisel. All three are active members of the Greenbelt community and dedicated Co-op shoppers.

In the Black

Treasurer Joe Timer reported that Co-op, after two years of increasing losses, made a substantial profit, with an operating profit of \$57K boosted by a one-time rebate of \$151K from its supplier to an income before tax figure of approximately \$264K. The Paycheck Protection Program loan, which is not a factor in the profit calculation, is being used exactly as required to cover wages and some portion of utilities and other expenses and an application has already been made for forgiveness.

Timer explained that although there are to be no member dividends, there will be employee bonuses, and offered his own kudos to staff who have worked in masks throughout the Covid-19 period, referring to their increased pay as well deserved.

Rays on the Roof

State Liaison Dorrie Bates and Project Manager Steve Skolnik, both volunteers, received praise and gratitude for their roles in pushing the project through to completion. The roof replacement is completed and paid for out of the loans and donations received through the Rays on the Roof campaign.

The solar array is nearing completion but the grant for it has not yet been received from the state. Jones noted that Co-op has funds to complete payment for the solar array, even if the state funding comes in late (both invoice and grant are expected in a matter of weeks). In his report on the project, Skolnik said that the connection to the grid by Pepco is scheduled for mid-December and that power should start flowing from the array shortly thereafter.

Skolnik reiterated the anticipated significant benefits from the project. The R-30-plus insulation in the roof (as much as R-90 in some places due to the drainage slope) reduces overall heating and cooling power needs and the solar array is projected to produce approximately 20 percent of the store's remaining electricity requirement. Skolnik also mentioned the welcome disappearance of the chronic long-term annual cost for repairs previously necessitated by the constantly leaking roof.

Jones explained that the value of the electricity generated will be noted monthly by Pepco, making it simple to set aside equivalent funds to repay the loans – with an anticipated \$10K to \$20K surplus available beyond annual loan servicing used to offset operating costs as the loans are paid off. By approximately 2031, with loans repaid, all the savings

from the solar installation will be available to offset other costs.

Curbside Pickup

The curbside delivery capability has proven popular, and while not yet quite paying for itself, has provided a much-needed local service. Initiated by Davis, implementation was accelerated by Gillotte on his arrival as the pandemic worsened.

Commenting on shortages, Gillotte noted that the store, as a small independent operation, has the flexibility to be innovative in sourcing. Toilet paper, hand sanitizer, yeast (for home bakers) and masks have been acquired outside normal channels to keep essential supplies available. Gillotte said that in 30 years in the grocery business, he has never seen “the supply chain as wonky as it is” and remarked that “it is challenging to do the normal stuff.”

Greenbelt Buys, Gives

After moving his family here from Texas in April, Gillotte seemed delighted by Greenbelt. “This community is so generous,” he said. He pointed out that more than 5,000 grocery bags (\$5 each) of non-perishable items have been donated since March 1 to be distributed by the St. Hugh’s food pantry – representing \$25,000 of much-needed staples for struggling families. On overall purchases, he said that members are also buying more groceries per trip. Sales were up dramatically starting in February, overall exceeding those of last fiscal year by close to \$1M. Weekly sales for the last 22 weeks of FY20 were 19 per-

cent higher than the same period during FY19. Gillotte encouraged members to keep purchasing at Co-op as life patterns return to normal.

Bylaw Change

Attendees voted to allow a portion of patronage refunds to go into non-interest-bearing accounts (noting that this would not apply immediately, since there have been no such payments for 2020). This brings Greenbelt in line with other co-ops in having two capital accounts pertaining to members: Member Capital, which bears interest (currently 1 percent) and Sustaining Equity which does not pay interest, both of which provide capital for Co-op to use.

There is no change to the pay-out process for interest on Member Capital (interest is paid on accounts with balances over \$200) and although the rate of interest has been inched down on that account to 1 percent, rates on Rays on the Roof loans will remain at their original level. This bylaw enables members to donate all or part of their member capital to the sustaining equity account. Member capital is not available to the member but is retained by the Co-op as long as the law allows.

Member questions were relatively few and attendee questions submitted through chat were answered in turn at various stages of the meeting. The meeting didn’t have the lively back and forth of in-person meetings, but it was effectively run and efficient in achieving its goals.

Cassels Award

The Jim Cassels Award honors Cassels’ service to co-operatives in Greenbelt and the grocery-pharmacy in particular. This year’s award goes to the Prince George’s Collaborative Resolution Center to provide two, two-session programs – the first round in January, the second in April. The program, Collaborative Listening for Relationships, teaches techniques in family and individual counseling and crisis intervention to teens and adults. The award was presented to the group’s Fasia Hardy by Cassels’ son, Fred, who now lives in Seattle. Hardy noted how timely the class will be in an era placing so much stress on families.

Fasia Hardy can hardly hold in her delight receiving the Cassels award to her group.

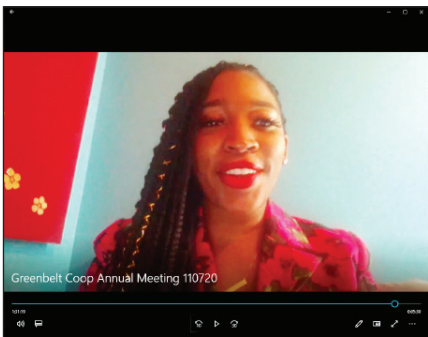


PHOTO COURTESY CO-OP



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

The trees around the Lake change color.

SUPPORT & APPRECIATION RALLY for Greenbelt's Police & First Responders

Sat. Nov. 14, 11 am to 1 pm front of Municipal bldg.

Sponsored by: Greenbelt Citizens for Public Safety

Reel and Meal Will Screen Documentary on John Lewis

On Monday, November 16 at 7 p.m. Reel and Meal presents John Lewis – Get in the Way. Kathleen Dowdey’s 2017 documentary was the first biographical documentary about civil rights leader John Lewis, who died earlier this year. He served as congressman for Georgia’s 5th district from 1987 until his death. We remember him this election year especially for his championship of voting rights. Leading a discussion after the screening will be Josephine Mourning, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference chapter for Prince George’s County, and PG Changemakers Coalition leaders Amity Pope and Krystal Oriadha. Register in advance for this Zoom screening at tinyurl.com/NovReelandMeal. Log on at 6:45 p.m. for the 7 p.m. program.

It is hard to match Lewis for his courage at nonviolent protests and acts of civil disobedience. Mobs assaulted him when he took part in the Freedom Rides, after which he spent a month at a dreaded Mississippi prison. He never relented in his commitment to nonviolence. In 1965 he led the Bloody Sunday march in Selma, where Alabama state troopers attacked peaceful protesters with billy clubs, bullwhips and tear gas. For that he suffered a fractured skull. The event led to President Lyndon Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act into law in 1965 that prohibited racial discrimination at the polls. In 2013 the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act, shutting down almost 1,700 polling places in states under federal supervision for past discriminatory voting practices. The Zoom meeting will include a discussion on how to deal with today’s systemic racism and state-sanctioned violence.



John Lewis - Get in the Way

The Co-op Grocery will again offer a vegan meal to Reel and Meal participants for \$7.99. The menu this month is Cauliflower Alfredo from Macro Vegetarian with Tofurky Italian Sausage and a fresh field green salad with shredded carrots and cherry tomatoes. Phone in your pre-order by 1 p.m. on Monday, November 16 for pick-up between 4 and 7 p.m. at the deli. Call 301-474-0522 and ask for the deli. Some meals may be available on a walk-in basis if not pre-ordered.

For more information about this film contact Lucy Duff at lucyduff@comcast.net or go to facebook.com/reelandmealNDC/. Reel and Meal is a monthly film series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues. Its organizers are Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group, Green Vegan Networking, Utopia Film Festival and the Prince George’s County Peace and Justice Coalition, which presents this month’s program.



These photos are taken from the documentary John Lewis - Get in the Way, directed by Kathleen Dowdey.

- Film stills by Donna Hoffmeister

BELTWAY PLAZA HARDWARE

Christmas Decorations

Keys Made -- Home & Auto

Disinfectant & Cleaning Supplies

For the person who has everything: A Bird House (Locally Made)

Located along side TJ MAXX

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A Woman Owned Enterprise

Pandemic Shifts GHI Annual Meeting to an Online Hybrid

by Tom Jones



The socially-distanced election is set up outside the GHI office on Friday, October 30. From left, Christine Gyemfi, Tom Jones, Terry Henderson, Mary Salemme and Luisa Robles.

No community organization wants its meeting to be a Covid-19 super-spreader event, so many have moved online. The Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) annual meeting each May is usually Greenbelt’s largest cooperative gathering, when more than 150 of its 1,600 members gather in the Community Center gym to hash out issues of the day, win door prizes and set GHI’s course for the next year by electing the Audit Committee and Board of Directors.

Because Prince George’s County’s phase two reopening still limits public gatherings, GHI membership could not meet in person. The GHI board recognized that a fully online meeting would disenfranchise anyone lacking a good internet connection, a sufficient computer or cellphone, or the technological skills to participate. Therefore, the board settled on a hybrid meeting, offering members the choice of joining online or in person. The online component couldn’t be a regular Zoom meeting, since GHI bylaws specify only members can vote (one vote per home), and tallying a hundred or more votes only from authorized members would be too complex. Staff researched and obtained several quotes before recommending a firm with experience running online meetings and elections, GetQuorum of Toronto.

Preparations included a dress rehearsal, hiring a sound technician and volunteer-provided Zoom training sessions so members not experienced in online meetings could learn how to participate. The City of Greenbelt said the Community Center gym was unavailable, but after GHI staff ruled out the American Legion facility and firehouse, the city did permit up to 50 people in the Youth Center gym. With eight officials onsite (four members plus four staff and crew), attendance was limited to 42 GHI members, with masks required and sanitizer on hand. To avoid overcrowding, the meeting announcement mailing included a form to reserve a spot in advance.

When the meeting began Thursday, October 29, just two members had reserved a spot, including the board treasurer. Board President Steve Skolnik and nine other people in the mostly empty gym joined 170 members online. While many connected from their nearby homes, one member logged on from her State Depart-

ment post in Bangladesh.

The unprecedented meeting had some problems. Sound issues in the Youth Center delayed the start, and it was sometimes difficult for the two hybrid gatherings to hear each other. The deaf interpreter was sometimes too far from the camera. The biggest issue arose from email invitations.

To ensure accurate vote tallies, GetQuorum sent a personalized link to each member using their email address in GHI records. To prevent duplicate votes, the message could be sent to only one address per membership – and GHI has several addresses for many members. Some invitations did not reach their recipients and so some people missed the meeting. For any future online membership meetings, the GHI Nominations and Elections Committee (N&E) recommends printing each member’s email address of record on the official announcement for members to correct as needed.

Zina Ahmed of GetQuorum coordinated the discussion. Skolnik said Ahmed was “a tremendous aid who knew the meeting application inside and out.” The discussion went as smoothly as many in-person meetings, which have their own glitches.

The membership voted on just four motions: approving the agenda and minutes of two prior meetings, and going into recess. Each passed overwhelmingly with over 150 votes in favor and three or fewer against. The meeting finished in just 47 minutes. Skolnik said later, “We were fortunate for this first attempt there were no contentious issues.”

GHI bylaws specify elections begin when the meeting ends. Youth Center attendees could vote on paper ballots – but with the surprisingly low attendance only three were cast. The lion’s share of ballots was cast online: 277 members voted from Thursday night until noon Friday using the GetQuorum website. Velma Kahn posted on Facebook, “That was much easier than the government election.”

Members had a final chance to vote on paper ballots from 4 to 8 p.m. the next day, again with masks required and sanitizer on hand. N&E volunteers braved the cold outside the GHI office for four hours Friday as only 10 ballots were cast. With one absentee ballot, the vote totaled 291 ballots, 49 percent more than the past three years’ average. The four candidates for board and three for audit commit-

tee matched the open positions, making the election uncontested. Results are listed in the adjacent box.

On Facebook, former GHI president Sylvia Lewis posted, “It’s interesting that many more ballots were cast this year than in other years. Perhaps remote access to meetings and voting should be encouraged and enabled in the post pandemic future.” Skolnik said the board would consider an online meeting for May 2021, adding, “There were no door prizes. We’ve got to figure out a way to do door prizes.”

Tom Jones chairs the GHI N&E Committee.

GHI Election Results

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
4 vacancies, 2-year terms
259 Zoe Carter-Woodbridge
256 Deborah McKinley
254 Stefan Brodd
244 Ed James

AUDIT COMMITTEE:
3 vacancies, 1-year terms
265 Kathleen McNamara
257 Sam Lee
254 Christopher Carbone

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
elected by acclamation to 1-year terms
Dan Gillotte, Theresa Henderson, Tom Jones, Luisa Robles, Mary Salemme

City Notes

The Community Center team made almost 800 phone or email contacts alerting Greenbelt landlords of the Prince George’s County Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Museum researchers provided photos for a News Review article on political discord and harmony in Greenbelt’s history. Arts staff rescheduled exhibition programs postponed due to Covid-19.

With mask use decreasing at Buddy Attick Lake Park, Park Rangers handed out more masks. Animal Shelter residents are one kitten and six cats.

At the Community Center, Public Works cleaned interior windows and painted the gym. Street Maintenance installed a bike lane at St. Hugh’s. Horticulture/Parks removed two downed trees and vacuumed leaf piles. Refuse/Recycling collected 29.08 tons of refuse and 12.94 tons of recyclables.

Recreation staff managed Covid-19 precautions for two indoor sessions for Mom’s Morning Out preschoolers. Therapeutic Recreation hosted 15 Golden Agers for a Zoom Meet and Greet. With help from recreation staff, weekly “Food and Friendship” frozen meals were delivered to homebound seniors.



Jolly pumpkins by daylight, fiery ghouls by night

- Photos by Letty Bonnell



Green Ridge House Opens Waiting List

Requirements needed to qualify :

Green Ridge House, the City of Greenbelt’s HUD Section 8-202 apartment building, will open its waiting list from November 9 thru 13, 2020 and from November 16 thru 20, 2020. Green Ridge House is an independent living apartment building located at 22 Ridge Road. All applicants must apply in person and be 62 years of age or older. All applicants must have with them a valid State ID or Driver’s License and their Social Security card. We cannot accept an application without these two items. All applicants will have a credit and criminal background check performed to determine eligibility. Applicants should be prepared to move within 30 days once they receive a call that a unit is available. Rent is based upon 30 percent of one’s income within a maximum gross income of \$44,100 for individuals and \$50,400 for couples. All apartments are one-bedroom units. Only applicants who would consider moving within the next 6 months to one year should apply. Green Ridge House is a Non-Smoking Building.

Due to Covid-19 the process to fill out an application will be very different from past years. We will require everyone to follow strict protocol. Green Ridge House is considered an “at risk” apartment complex for seniors so, we are taking every precaution to keep everyone safe. The following are the steps that must be taken to fill out an application.

1. Have you or anyone that you live with or are in contact with been sick within the last 10 days? If yes, you will not be able to fill out an application.
2. You MUST wear a mask to enter Green Ridge House and we will be checking temperatures.
3. You must call 301-474-7595 to make an appointment to fill out an application. We will be making three appointments at the top of every hour. Appointments will be made for 10am, 11am, 2pm and 3pm. We will start accepting phone calls to make appointments beginning November 2, 2020, Monday thru Friday from 9am to 4pm. We are advising everyone to be very prompt. If you are late, you will still be required to leave at half past the hour.
4. Only applicants will be permitted in the building to fill out the applications. If you are an individual with a disability that needs assistance filling out the application and you have someone you can bring with you to assist you in the application process, please advise us of this situation when you call to make your appointment and we will provide the necessary arrangements.
5. You will have 30 minutes to fill out the application. If you do not finish the application in the allotted time given you must leave the property and bring the application back at another time. You will need to call to see when you can return the application.
6. At half past the hour, applicants will be asked to turn in their application or leave the building. This allows staff to sanitize the area so that the next prospects can come in at the top of the hour.

EVICTIIONS continued from page 1

calls for a \$500 per day fine for each separate violation while the late-fee-freeze ordinance calls for a fine of \$200 per day per violation. All three ordinances would be in effect between the date of adoption and December 31, 2021. Unlike Governor Larry Hogan’s order, none of the proposed ordinances limit the scope of the law to tenants who have suffered a substantial loss of income due to Covid-19.

The late-fee ordinance also would require apartment owners and/or property managers to provide the city with a monthly report on the number of tenants 60 days or more behind on their rent. All three ordinances are available on the city’s website in the agenda packet for the November 9 meeting. Byrd had wanted to introduce the ordinances for first reading but several councilmembers reported not having received the emailed text of the proposed ordinances in time to review it.

The late-fee and rent-increase ordinances apply only to landlords with more than 10 units. The eviction ordinance does not, however, exempt small landlords.

Byrd pressed council to move fast, though he bristled at Councilmember Silke Pope’s characterization of the process as “rushed”. His intention is to have the freezes in effect before December rents are due.

A Better Way?

City Solicitor Todd Pounds told council that, right now, the best approach for a tenant facing eviction is to present the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) order which says: “a landlord, owner of a residential property, or other person with a legal right to pursue eviction or possessory action, shall not evict any covered person from any residential property in any jurisdiction to which this Order applies during the effective period of the Order.” He said that if a tenant presents the CDC form to

a judge, that ends the procedure. Liz Park, director of Greenbelt CARES, said her staff is assisting residents in completing these forms.

Background

Byrd had introduced what he called an ordinance that would freeze evictions between the date of adoption and February 27 at the October 26 regular meeting. Councilmembers Judith Davis and Emmett Jordan both raised objections regarding Byrd having bypassed the normal procedure. If a councilmember wants to propose legislation, usually council will first discuss it in a worksession and when introduced for first reading, the text would be couched in legal format. Instead, what Byrd introduced at that time was not presented as an ordinance, just a paragraph of intent.

Subsequent steps were also the reverse of the normal process. Normally, a worksession would precede a public hearing, but in this case, council held a public hearing on Thursday, November 5, followed by a worksession on the matter. The public hearing and worksession only concerned the eviction freeze, not the rent and late fee freezes. The draft ordinance discussed at the worksession did not provide for penalties.

Jurisdiction

It is not clear whether the ordinance would be enforceable. Pounds reported that Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera has opened up the courts under the governor’s deferral to local jurisdictions as to when to reopen. The county courts, he said, are following a policy of no evictions, rent increases or late fees while under a state of emergency. Actions filed regarding tenants already in arrears before the pandemic are being adjudicated, he said.

Landlords

Several councilmembers expressed concern about the impact on landlords. Pope pointed out that they have bills to pay, as

well, especially those with just a few properties. She disclosed that she owns one unit for her future use that she is currently renting out. Following the state law is the best approach, she said. She and Councilmember Edward Putens explained that a landlord may have a mortgage and be required to pay fees such as condominium, cooperative or homeowners association fees on the rental unit. Pounds said that if the ordinance passes, landlords could not pass along increases in their costs, such as for electricity. “Rent is rent,” he said.

Landlords cannot apply for business assistance. Instead, the CARES Act funding that assists tenants in paying their rent is how landlords get help. Park said that landlords have been equally as pleased as tenants with Greenbelt’s funding. In fact, landlords are often applying on behalf of their tenants, she said.

Enforcement

Pounds said that it is not clear

how a local ordinance would be viewed. Judges are following a policy that state law controls landlord-tenant issues and will do so unless they are told otherwise. His recommended course, if council passes the eviction freeze, is that he would send letters to Barbera and several other judges asking for guidance. The city could also go to the county circuit court requesting a temporary restraining order. However, he could not assure council that the judge would grant the restraining order. The judge might instead direct the city to follow state law until the judge is informed otherwise. Even if successful, this process could take 12 to 18 months. Pounds said that freezes on late fees and rent increases have not been addressed by anyone.

Gilberto Cabrera, supervisory inspector in the Department of Planning and Community Development, noted that it would take a lot to come up with an

enforcement process. Once the city issues a citation, the issue goes to the county landlord-tenant court and the city has no further involvement in the matter.

Council Reaction

Putens felt providing tenants with information on their options would be more useful than passing an ordinance where state law, rather than this ordinance, would be enforced. Pope and Davis expressed concerns about the potential legal costs the city would incur, both from trying to convince the courts to observe it and from paying Pounds to act as prosecutor in landlord-tenant court.

Byrd and Councilmember Rodney Roberts felt it was a fight worth having. Councilmember Emmett Jordan worried that the law would simply be window dressing, rather than actually helping residents. He said that the mechanics of the freeze would be difficult and complicated. Councilmember Leta Mach’s views were unclear as she continued to have problems with unmuting herself. When Byrd revealed that he was considering adding substantial penalties on landlords for non-compliance, Pope stated that she would not vote for an ordinance that involved penalties.

Going Forward

The draft eviction ordinance is significantly different from what was originally reviewed in the worksession. It is unclear whether councilmembers would support the penalty provisions.



Holly in Roosevelt Center

PHOTO BY ELISABETH KEVORKIAN



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GNR Thanksgiving Ads/Copy Deadline

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Business

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Capitol Cadillac Dealership To Close Doors Next Week

An original participant in the 1979 Golden Triangle development, Capitol Cadillac is to close its doors this month. The News Review received confirmation of this from the dealership, though owner H. Daniel Jobe declined to comment at this time. The News Review was informed, but could not confirm, that the franchise was bought by Sport Chevrolet of Silver Spring.

A brief recap of Cadillac sales in the U.S. overall shows that in 2019, they had about a 0.9 percent market share – less than half that of the early eighties. After a brief resurgence around 2013, their sales continued to decline, year over year with an average annual drop in sales of 2.48 percent from 2014 through 2019. (Source: Automotive News Data Center and the manufacturer)

ELECTION continued from page 1

with some lines in the morning. Despite small crowds, the polling place was well equipped for social distancing, with floor markings designating six feet of space and extra masks and hand sanitizer for voters who forgot to bring them.

Wade credits the Prince George’s County Board of Elections for a well-planned and executed election. However, she wishes there were more resources at the polling place for people who have difficulty with walking.

“I admired those individuals who persevered in their effort to vote in person, despite their physical challenges as well as those who came to their assistance,” Wade said. “My suggestion would be to have one or two wheelchairs or walkers with a seat available to offer these people as they enter the building.”

Greenbelt residents Andrea and Corita Waters decided to volunteer at a polling place for the first time this year too, but in York, Pa.

They worked as nonpartisan poll observers for CASA, an organization that supports and advocates for immigrants. The Waters provided masks for voters along with water and candy and helped ensure voter rights were protected.

The Waters chose Pennsylvania because it was projected to be a pivotal state for both candidates and the risk for voter suppression in the state was high. Though no one knew at the time, Pennsylvania would go on to decide the election.

“[Pennsylvania] felt like a nearby place that we could make sure the election process ran smoothly,” Corita said.

Before the Waters arrived to volunteer, though, the polling place was already experiencing an issue: some of the poll workers and election judges sent translators away, resulting in some voters coming out of the polling place in tears, Andrea said. The issue was never officially resolved, but both CASA volunteers and members of the Pennsylvania Democrats reported the situation.

Overall, though, Election Day in York had a distinctly community feel due to the voters who turned out, and the Waters said they would volunteer again if the need is as great as it was this year.

“The need felt extreme this year,” Andrea said. “I feel like I did my part to make sure it was fair.”

Julia Arbutus is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism.



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Greenbelters spontaneously gathered to celebrate in Roosevelt Center after the Associated Press called Biden as the winner of the presidential election on Saturday, November 7. After the celebration a Biden/Harris sign is left propped up on the Mother & Child statue.



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Your Greenbelt Specialists In Roosevelt Center

Volunteers Add Native Plants To City Pollinator Garden

by Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll

Pollinators are essential to the environment and to humanity. The ecological service they provide is essential for the reproduction of over 85 percent of flowering plants, including roughly two thirds of crop species that we rely on for food. The service pollinators provide is threatened due to habitat loss, pesticide use and introduced disease.

The City of Greenbelt recognizes this issue and is taking steps to assist these critical members of our ecosystem. Efforts are underway to improve existing habitat areas and create new ones. Policies have been adopted to curb the use of harmful pesticides. Concerned citizens throughout the city have included pollinator-friendly landscaping to their yards.

These are steps in the right direction to protect pollinators and, on the morning of October 24, a group of 26 volunteers lent their time and effort to aid in these endeavors.

Autumnal Excursion

The morning was gray and cool, a crisp reminder that the peak of autumn was near amid the changing foliage painting the trees around Buddy Attick Park. The volunteers assembled by the park's amphitheater to receive instructions for the day's Weed Warriors event.

Unlike other events, the goal for the day was not to remove invasive species, but instead to plant native plants in an area that had already had invasive plants removed. The area of focus was the pollinator garden located by the group picnic areas near the main parking lot. Previous groups had recently worked on the site to remove invasive species and to spread mulch around in order to suppress their regrowth. The volunteers then filled in the open space by planting 235 native perennials and grasses consisting of 15 different species.

Native Plant Advantages

Fall is a great time for planting trees, shrubs and perennials. As the plants go dormant in the cooler weather, the ground stays warm and the plant can focus its energy and resources on establishing its root system before spring. This increases their chance for survival and makes the plant more self-sufficient heading into the summer, meaning less watering and less worrying about whether or not the new plants will survive. This is especially true for native perennials. Native plants generally have deep and extensive root systems that make them more tolerant to drought and other adverse conditions compared to ornamental and non-native plant species. Native plants have also spent thousands of years adapting to local soil conditions and need less assistance with nutrients to survive. All of this is to say that native plants will cost less money in the long run compared to ornamental and non-native plants that require more direct input to survive.

Not only do native plants cost less money but they also provide a wide variety of environmental services to the local ecology. Native plants have adapted and evolved over thousands of years with the regional sun, soil and



PHOTO BY KEVIN CARPENTER-DRISCOLL

Volunteers help install native plants.

climate. At the same time, they have been co-evolving with the native pollinators in the region. The plants provide food, shelter and nesting sites in return for pollination.

Some pollinators and plants have evolved specific adaptations and specializations that make them dependent on each other. For example, some moth-pollinated plants will have spurs or tubes that are the exact length of a particular moth's proboscis or tongue. These kinds of specializations are mutually beneficial for the two species; the plant gets pollinated and the moth has a reserved source of nectar. These kinds of relationships promote biodiversity in the environment which leads to a healthier and more vibrant ecosystem overall.

Stormwater Control

Native plants also aid in stormwater management. Adding native plants to a landscape helps to slow down stormwater and increase infiltration to recharge groundwater sources, filtering the water as it percolates through the soil. This process is aided by the extensive root systems of native plants and their larger size to slow stormwater down. We often think of impervious surfaces as asphalt roads and parking lots or concrete sidewalks, but turf grass, used in lawns and general land-

scaping, acts as another impervious surface. Turf grass has shallow roots that create thick mats just a few inches below the soil. In heavy rain, stormwater will sheet and flow off the grass like it was concrete, increasing the nutrient load and water volume that is carried out to the streams, rivers, and eventually the bay.

With all of these benefits of native plants, it is little wonder why so many volunteers offered to help install them in the pollinator garden, combining for a total of 78 volunteer hours. Many of the species planted act as host plants for butterflies, such as the golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*), a host plant for the black swallowtail butterfly. The hope is that these plants will thrive and spread in the pollinator garden as Weed Warriors continue to beat back and remove invasive plants in the spring and summer months of next year. Eventually they will be well established and able to outcompete the unwanted species for resources. The inclusion of native plants here and at other locations around the city will help to ensure that Greenbelt is ecologically biodiverse and environmentally resilient in the future. For more information about native plants and what you can do to help pollinators, visit greenbeltmd.gov/plant-native.



PHOTO BY MARA HEMMINGER

The Mother & Child statue beneath an arch of fall foliage

News Review Photo Gallery

Visit the News Review Photo Gallery to see these and more photos taken by Greenbelters. Send your high resolution photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. <https://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/photo-gallery-2-2-2/>

Bag Recycling Opportunities After Co-op Program Ended

by Allison Mollenkamp

Greenbelters wishing to recycle plastic grocery bags lost an option when the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy stopped collecting bags. Two recycling options, however, remain in Greenbelt.

Giant and Safeway both collect plastic bags for recycling, and based on information from the recycling firm Trex, it is likely bags at both locations actually go on to be recycled.

Co-op decided to stop collecting plastic grocery bags when they learned the bags were not being recycled.

Dan Gillote, general manager of Co-op, looked into the bag recycling process when a member asked what happens to bags after they're collected. He passed the question on to the vendor that collected bags from Co-op. "They, after a little bit of hemming and hawing, said 'actually nothing, they just get thrown away,'" Gillote said.

The vendor went on to tell him that there is very little market for plastic bags. Gillote felt accepting the bags for recycling when they were actually being thrown away wasn't transparent, so Co-op stopped collecting them. "I knew that that would provoke people to sort of maybe think about their choices. If they didn't want plastic bags, we have reusable bags." Co-op also offers paper grocery bags.

Co-op briefly stopped the use of reusable bags earlier in the pandemic, but the bags are allowed again (with some constraints) as the store does not consider them a significant source of Covid-19 transmission. Shoppers may bring reusable bags from home but must load their purchases into the bags themselves.

Gillote worked with the city to try and find an alternate vendor to recycle plastic bags, but they were not successful.

Luisa Robles, the sustainability coordinator for the city, found one company that recycles plastic bags, but it wouldn't have been an accessible option for Co-op.

"The problem with the Trex program," Robles said, is that, "They have very stringent requirements. First of all, they require the store to be able to sort and bale the bags up to a certain weight which is like tons of bags. The Co-op does not have that capability."

Trex recycles plastic bags by making them into plastic lumber. Trex partners with several stores in Maryland. The Greenbelt Giant and Safeway stores likely recycle plastic bags through Trex.

Robles says reusable bags are a good option for most scenarios, but that reusable bags currently can't replace some items, like plastic bread bags.

"For all of those things that we cannot minimize or stop using at all," Robles said. "Then we'd like people to be able to recycle them."

Outside of Greenbelt, Trex partners with at least some locations of Home Depot, Kohl's, Food Lion, Harris Teeter, Martins, Redner's Markets, Wegmans and Weis. Some locations may have stopped collecting bags due to Covid-19.

The city does not recycle plastic bags and would prefer that they not be put in the trash.

Allison Mollenkamp is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism.



PHOTO BY CHARLES JACKMAN

The Gang's All Here! A heron, Canada geese and painted turtles enjoy fall weather at the lake.



PHOTO BY ELISABETH KEVORKIAN

A spot of fall colors shows vividly over the greens of summer.